



Imprint

BfR Consumer Monitor 02|2019

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Introduction

The BfR Consumer Monitor is a major instrument of consumer health protection, providing answers every six months to the question of how the general public perceives topics from the field of consumer health protection on the basis of a representative population survey. Which topics are important in the view of the consumer? Which topics are they familiar with and what don't they know so much about? And above all – to what extent do differences exist between the public perception and the scientific estimation of health risks?

The first survey in 2019 showed that the topic of microplastics is known to an increasing proportion of the population compared to the previous survey in August 2018. It has moved up to the third place on the awareness scale of health and consumer topics behind salmonella and genetically modified food. Another topic of which awareness has increased is the *Campylobacter*

pathogen, however it is still less than a third of respondents who have heard of it. Overall, the respondents are less concerned about the selected health and consumer topics than in the previous year. Accordingly, fewer people classify in particular the topics of antimicrobial resistance, salmonella, aluminium in food packaging materials or food containers, as well as carbon monoxide as being of concern. What is new is that in this survey the pollution through diesel, exhaust gases and particulate matter is spontaneously mentioned by the respondents as one of the greatest health risks.

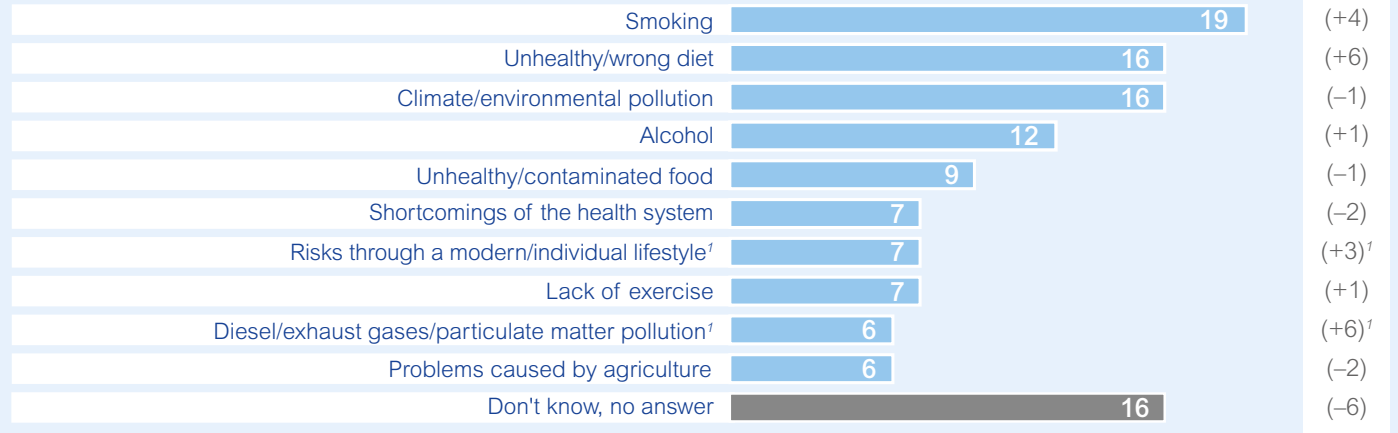
If you would like to find out more about the individual topics, you will find links to more detailed information on the BfR website on the last page of this booklet.



Which topics do you personally regard as the biggest health risks for consumers?

You can state a maximum of three topics.


Health risks for consumers



Shown: The ten most common spontaneously mentioned risks

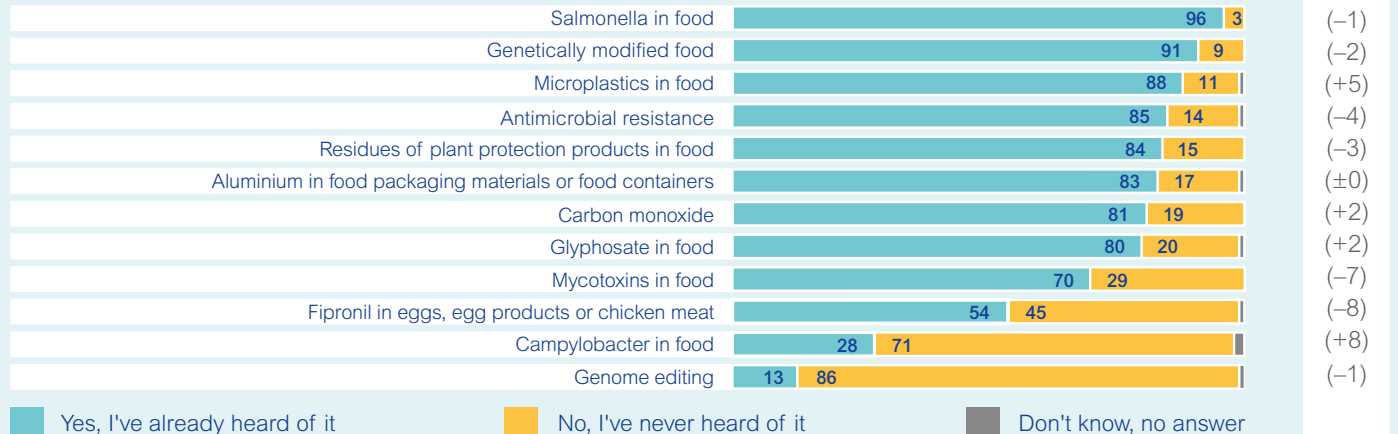
Basis: 1,011; Figures given as percentages (compared to 08/2018: percentage points);

¹ Not among the ten most frequently mentioned risks in 08/2018

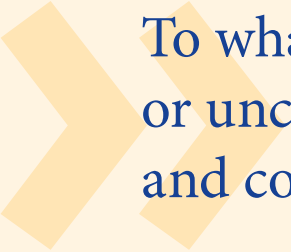


Have you already heard about the following health and consumer topics or have you never heard of them?

Awareness of health and consumer topics



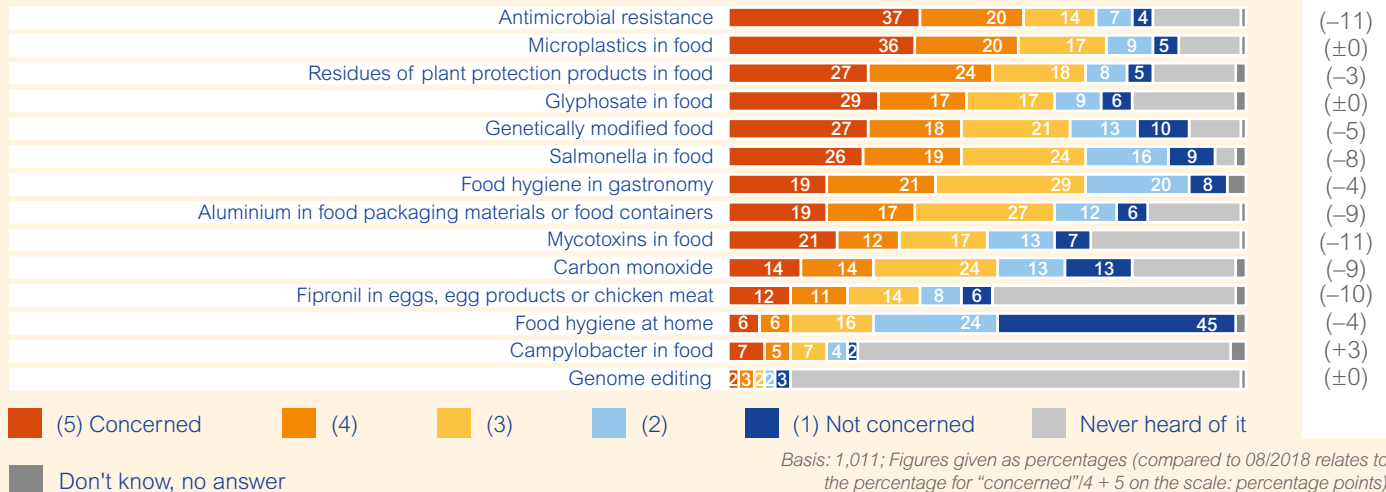
Basis: 1,011; Figures given as percentages (compared to 08/2018 refers to "already heard of it": percentage points)

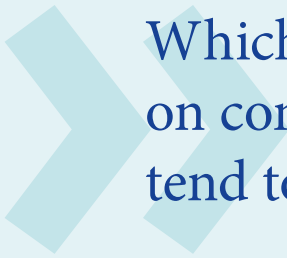


To what extent are you personally concerned or unconcerned about the following health and consumer topics?

Please use a scale of 1 to 5 for your answer, with 1 representing “not concerned” and 5 representing “concerned”. You can graduate your opinion with the values in between.

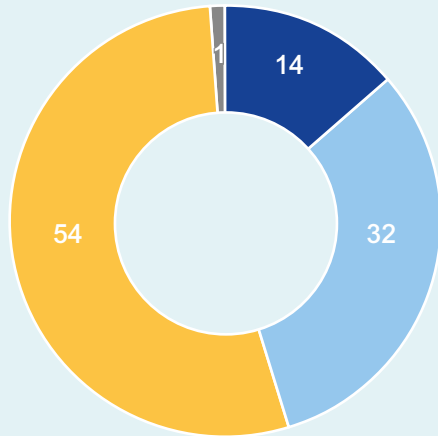
Concern about health and consumer topics





Which of the following three statements on consumer health protection would you tend to agree with most?

Consumer health protection



I assume that I can **assess health risks by myself** and do not need **any state institutions** for this.

Compared to 08/2018

(+3)

The state should provide **scientifically validated information** on the basis of which I can protect myself against health risks.

(-6)


The state should take **more concrete measures** such as bans and restrictions to protect me as a consumer from health risks.

(+4)

Don't know, no answer

(±0)

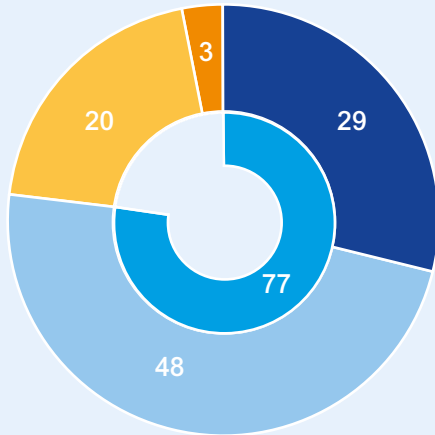
Basis: 1,011; Figures given as percentages (compared to 08/2018: percentage points)



How do you estimate in general the safety of foods you can buy in Germany?


Would you say the foods are ...

Safety of foods offered for sale in Germany



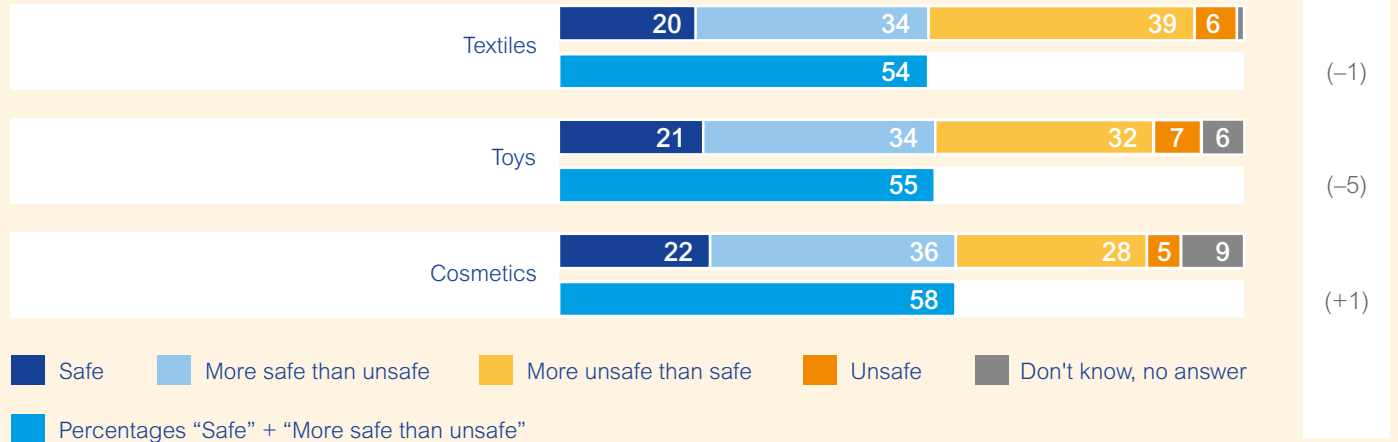
	Compared to 08/2018
Safe	(+1)
More safe than unsafe	(-1)
More unsafe than safe	(+2)
Unsafe	(-2)
Percentages "Safe" + "More safe than unsafe"	(±0)

Basis: 1,011; Figures given as percentages (compared to 08/2018: percentage points)




And how do you estimate in general the safety of the following products which you can buy in Germany?

Safety of products offered for sale in Germany

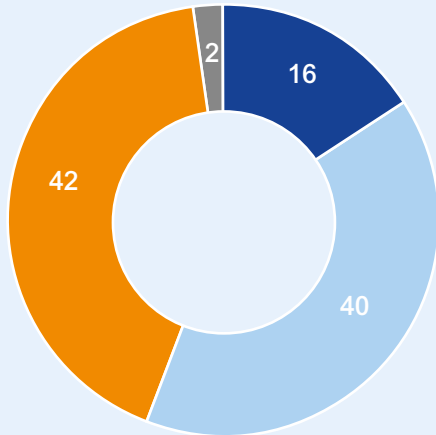


Basis: 1,011; Figures given as percentages (compared to 08/2018: percentage points)




Is the **quality** of our food tending to increase, decrease or stay the same, in your opinion?

Change in food quality



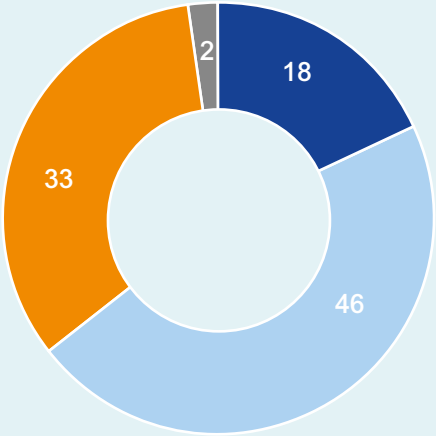
	<i>Compared to 08/2018</i>
■ Tending to increase	(+3)
■ Tending to stay the same	(+3)
■ Tending to decrease	(-6)
■ Don't know, no answer	(±0)

Basis: 1,011; Figures given as percentages (compared to 08/2018: percentage points)



Is the **safety** of our food tending to increase, decrease or stay the same, in your opinion?

Change in food safety




Tending to increase
Tending to stay the same
Tending to decrease
Don't know, no answer

Compared to 08/2018

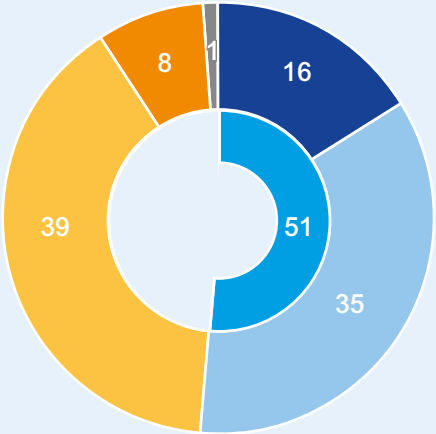
(+5)
(+1)
(-7)
(+1)

Basis: 1,011; Figures given as percentages (compared to 08/2018: percentage points)



To what extent do you trust that state authorities
in Germany protect the health of consumers?

Trust in state authorities to protect health



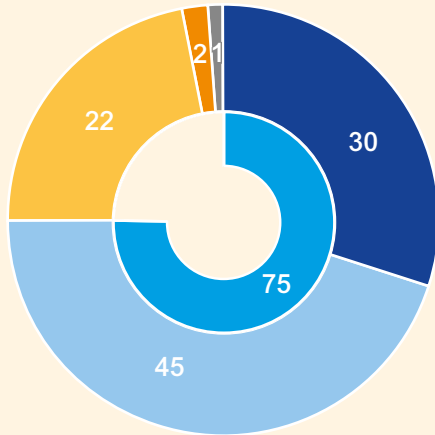
	Compared to 08/2018
I trust them	(-2)
I tend to trust them	(-5)
I tend to distrust them	(+5)
I don't trust them	(+1)
Don't know, no answer	(±0)
Percentages "I trust them" + "I tend to trust them"	(-7)

Basis: 1,011; Figures given as percentages (compared to 08/2018: percentage points)



How interested are you in consumer health topics?

Interest in consumer health topics



	<i>Compared to 08/2018</i>
■ I am very interested in them	(+3)
■ I am quite interested in them	(-1)
■ I am less interested in them	(-1)
■ I am not at all interested in them	(-1)
■ Don't know, no answer	(±0)
■ Percentages “I am very interested in them” + “I am quite interested in them”	(+2)

Basis: 1,011; Figures given as percentages (compared to 08/2018: percentage points)

How were the data collected?

Date of the survey:	4 to 6 February 2019
Random sample:	1,011
Presentation of results:	All figures in percent, rounding differences possible
Population:	German-speaking population aged 14 years and over in private households in the Federal Republic of Germany
Sampling:	Samples drawn at random from land line and mobile telephone numbers which can also include telephone numbers not listed in directories (in line with standards set by the Association of German Market Research Institutes – ADM)
Method:	Telephone interview (CATI omnibus survey, Dual Frame)
Conducted by:	KANTAR EMNID
Previous study:	BfR Consumer Monitor 08 2018

About the BfR

Do nanoparticles promote the occurrence of allergies? Does apple juice contain too much aluminium? The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, or BfR for short, is responsible for answering questions on all aspects of the health assessment of foods and feeds, consumer products and chemicals. Through its work, it makes a decisive contribution towards ensuring that food, products and the use of chemicals have become safer in Germany. The Institute's main tasks comprise the assessment of existing health risks and identification of new ones, the development of recommendations to limit risks and the transparent communication of this process.

This work results in the scientific advice given to political decision-makers. To help with the strategic alignment of its risk communication, the BfR conducts its own research in the field of risk perception. The Institute is independent in its scientific assessments, research and communication. The BfR belongs to the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

i More information at: www.bfr.bund.de/en

Aluminium in food packagings or food containers:

> [A-Z-Index](#) > [Aluminium](#)

Antimicrobial resistance:

> [A-Z-Index](#) > [Antimicrobial resistance](#)

Campylobacter in food:

> [A-Z-Index](#) > [Campylobacter](#)

Carbon monoxide:

> [A-Z-Index](#) > [Carbon monoxide](#)

Fipronil in eggs, egg products and chicken meat:

> [A-Z-Index](#) > [Fipronil](#)

Food hygiene:

> [A-Z-Index](#) > [Food hygiene](#)

Genetically modified food:

> [FAQ](#) > [Foods and feeds from genetically modified organisms \(GMO\)](#)

Genome editing:

> [FAQ](#) > [Genome editing and CRISPR/Cas9](#)

Glyphosate in food:

> [FAQ](#) > [Assessment of the health risk of glyphosate](#)

Microplastics in food:

> [A-Z-Index](#) > [Microplastic](#)

Mycotoxins in food:

> [A-Z-Index](#) > [Mycotoxins](#)

Residues of plant protection products in food:

> [FAQ](#) > [Plant protection product residues in food](#)

Salmonella in food:

> [A-Z-Index](#) > [Salmonella](#)

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